Civil Aeromedical Centre

*251. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Steering Committee has been set up by Government to prepare schemes for a Civil Aeromedical Centre and if so, what are the terms of reference of the Committee;

(b) what is the estimate of expenditure to be incurred on the proposed centre and whether any financial allocation has already been made in this regard; and

(c) what are the likely applications of the proposed centre and who are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Yes, Sir. The terms of the reference of the Steering Committee are:

(1) To prepare a proposal for a Civil Aeromedical Centre under the Directorate General of Civil Aviation;

(2) To call for global tenders for setting up of the Civil Aeromedical Centre as a turn-key project;

(3) To vet the tenders received from various companies; and

(4) To submit to the Ministry of Civil Aviation the proposal and the most suitable tender.

(b) Expenditure on the proposed Centre is estimated to be about Rs. 2.20 crores. During 1988-89, a sum of Rs. 40 lakhs has been earmarked for this purpose.

(c) The Aeromedical Centre, when set up, will be responsible for medical examination of civil air crew, laying down of medical standards for flight crew and assisting in investigation of accidents involving human factors, etc. Airlines, flying crew and other operators will be the likely beneficiaries.

Navodaya Vidyalayas in Tamil Nadu

*252. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme has not been introduced in Tamil Nadu; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Tamil Nadu Government had raised any objection for the implementation of the scheme in that State;

(c) whether Government propose to permit the students of Tamil Nadu to use Tamil and English as medium of instruction in Navodaya Vidyalayas; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. No specific proposal has yet been received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for setting up Navodaya Vidyalaya in their State.

Government of Tamil Nadu expressed reservations on the medium of instruction in the Navodaya Vidyalayas and migration of 20% children from each Navodaya Vidyalaya to another Navodaya Vidyalaya in different linguistic regions.

(c) and (d) Admission to Navodaya Vidyalayas will be at the level of Class VI. In view of the fact that most of the students so admitted would have been taught earlier through the medium of the mother tongue/regional language, instruction will be provided through the same medium upto VII or VIII class, dur-

ing which time intensive teaching of Hindi/English, both as language subjects and co-media, will be undertaken. Through skilful use of the media and of modern techniques of teaching languages, switch-over to Hindi/English after VII or VIII class would present no difficulty. Thereafter, the common medium would be Hindi/English in all Navodaya Vidyalayas.

Prevalence of 'Sickle Moon' disease in tribal areas of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa

*253. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a disease called 'Sickle Moon' is pravelent amount the tribals mainly in the interior Blocks of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa in which victim's body gradually takes the shape of sickled moon and the person dies in the absence of any cure;

(b) if so, what are the latest details about the said disease and its victims; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far to investigate and ascertain the causes and cures of this killer disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Some limited genetic research studies conducted have revealed the presence of 'Sickle-Cell' cases among the tribals.

(b) As per 1981 Census about 1.6 lakhs tribal population suffer from Sickle-Cell diseases.

(c) Indian Council of Medical Research through its Regional Medical Research Centre, Jabalpur, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi and All India Institute of Medical Sciences are conducting studies to find out the causes of genetic disease. Preventive, promotive and curative health services are being provided to the people in rural areas including tribals by establishing a net work of Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, Additional Primary Health Centres, Subsidiary Health Centres and Sub-Centres.

Grounding of a Dornier aircraft at Calcutta

*254. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Vayudoot Dornier aircraft has been grounded at Calcutta for the past one year;

(b) if so, what is the snag in the aircraft;

(c) what are the parts which have been removed from the aircraft and what is the cost involved; and

(d) what is the future of this aircraft and whether there are plans to fly it again?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) Dornier VT-EIP aircraft which had suffered structural damage following an incident has been grounded at Calcutta since 9th August, 1987.

(c) While some parts and components which would have deteriorated if they had been left on the aircraft were removed for safe keeping, rotabls worth Rs. 60 lakhs approximately were removed to maintain other aircraft in serviceable condition. This became necessary as the usual spares inventary of Vayudoot had depleted due to the long turn around time taken by the manufacturers of the aircraft and engine for repairs of rotables.